

### AN OFF-BEAT RECORD FOR THE ACADEMY?

BEDDED DOWN in Steinhart Aquarium's garage is a black cat called Harry, one of the most unlikely names possible since Harry is a female, decidedly so.

Last spring, Harry gave birth to eight kittens, causing some lifted eyebrows but no real astonishment. In July, Harry outdid herself and the astonishment was quick to follow. She became the mother of eleven kittens. There is no certainty Harry's grand effort is a record among felines but it will do until an even more supreme effort comes to light.

### ENTOMOLOGY GUEST BOOK GETS NEW NAMES

A SPECIAL STUDY of carpenter bees of the New World brought Professor R. J. S. Moure, professor of Geology at the University of Paraná in Brazil, to the Academy's Entomology Department for nearly three weeks recently.

Professor Moure made the special study here in conjunction with Dr. Paul Hurd, entomologist at the University of California. The Brazilian professor is on a Guggenheim Fellowship and, incidentally, he is compiling a catalogue of the bees of South America, something which has never been done before.

Other recent entomological visitors include George Holland, who heads systematic entomology for the Canadian Department of Agriculture and Dr. Eugene Munroe, who works with Holland. The Canadians were en route to collect insects in New Guinea and the Fiji Islands for the Canadian national collection.

### SNAPPERS AND SNAKES

DENIZENS IN STEINHART Aquarium's swamp were increased by two last month with the receipt of two more large Alligator snapping turtles from the Ft. Worth Aquarium and Zoo.

Both turtles weighed in at more than 100 pounds apiece; both were as ferocious as reputed, which made for a real snappy situation. One of the snappers arrived with a hook imbedded in its head. Getting it out was a prospect the Aquarium staff anticipated with something less than glee. The details are too painful to relate but the hook is out.

Another recent Aquarium acquisition is a Flying Tree Snake from Malaya, a handsome specimen about two feet long and now on display in the reptile section of the Aquarium. The snake doesn't actually fly but by means of handy hinged ribs on its underside, it can pull in its stomach and, dropping from a tree branch where it lives, it can glide up to eight feet from tree to tree or from tree to ground.

### NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy last month are:

#### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Anson Herrick  
Mr. A. Holden Higbee  
Mr. Norman A. Jarrett  
Mr. Stebler Loze  
Mr. Frank Reinke  
Mr. David S. Tullus

#### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. O. L. Barnett, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Groves

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Taube

Mr. James C. Travis  
Mr. West Woon

#### ANNUAL SPONSOR

The Lenkurt Foundation, Inc.

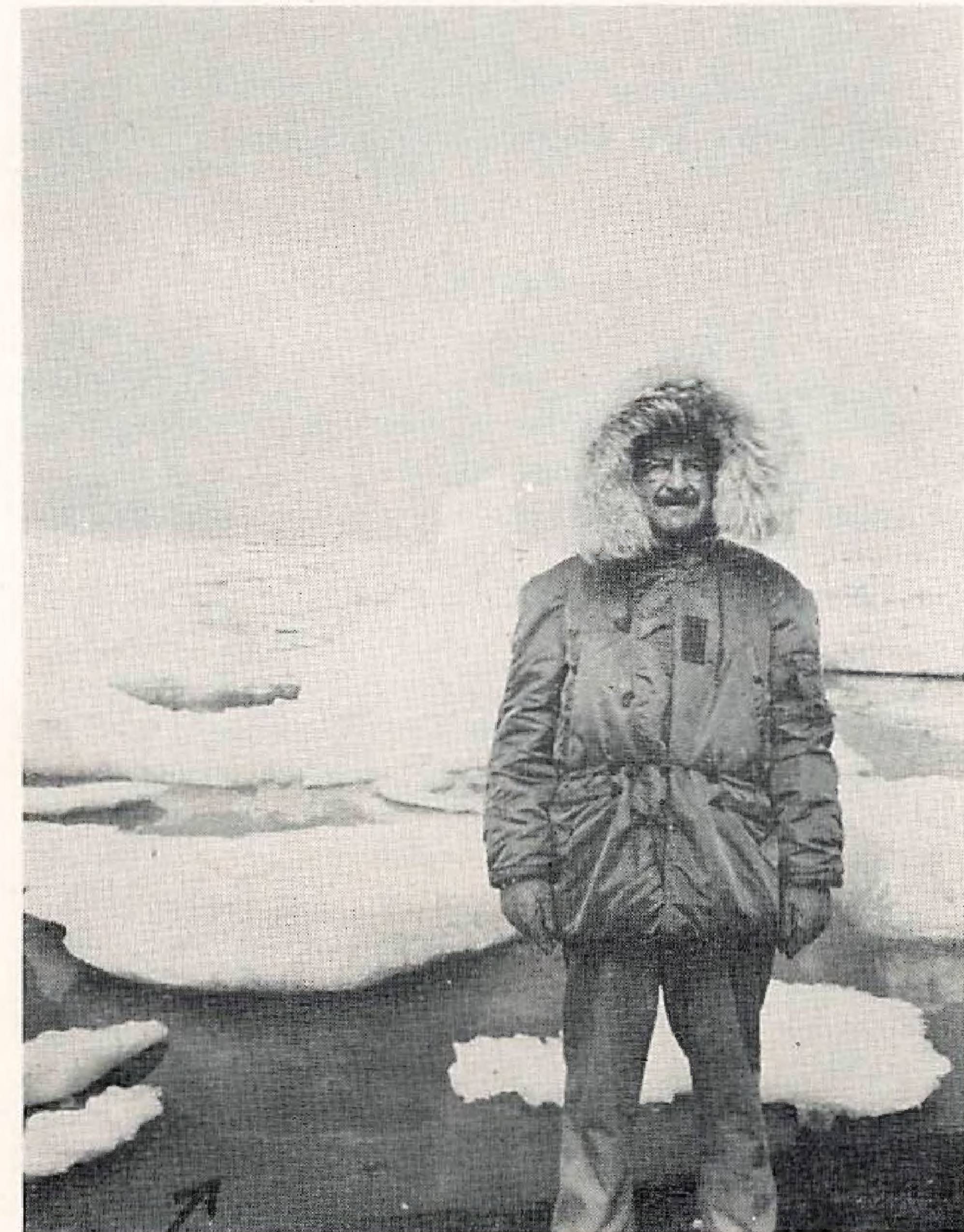
#### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Carolyn Budgett  
Karen Jewett  
Dolores Moreno  
Susan Walraven

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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DR. ROBERT C. MILLER, IN ALASKAN  
"RESORT" WEAR, POSES BY ARCTIC OCEAN

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## *August Announcement*

THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, August 21, in May Treat Morrison Auditorium. This month's lecturer will be Charles F. Hagar, the Academy's new assistant Curator of Astronomy and assistant manager of Morrison Planetarium, who will lecture on:

### "MAN-MADE MOONS"

For centuries, man's eyes have turned outward into space seeking knowledge of the universe. Now that the long-awaited International Geophysical Year is under way, man is preparing to gather knowledge by sending aloft equipment more complex and far-reaching than his eyes.

Sometime during IGY—which actually runs for 18 months—the United States will launch an artificial satellite from the earth's surface, a satellite which is expected to be a major step toward the conquest of space.

The satellite-launching program is called Vanguard. Vanguard is a three-stage rocket, two stages of which will act as carriers for the third stage, the small, round, shiny satellite which, it is hoped, will settle into an orbit and become a part of the solar system. If the project is successful, scientists believe the satellite will supply invaluable data on outer space.

Vanguard, together with the satellite plans of other nations cooperating in IGY, will be the subject of Hagar's discussion. The lecture will include early planning, present progress and the latest available material on these projects. Some of the material to be used has been gathered for a "Man-Made Moons" show in Morrison Planetarium which will be offered when the satellite is successfully launched.

For this projected show, Planetarium staffers have collected many slides on the various satellite programs which Hagar will use to illustrate his lecture.

Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to attend this account of what—if successful—will be one of the most important achievements in the history of man.

### PT. BARROW: THE LAST RESORT?

TAKING A LITTLE TIME out from his study of the effect of radar on the orientation of birds, Academy Director Robert C. Miller posed for the cover photograph standing beside what he termed "a small piece of the Arctic Ocean."

Dr. Miller also took time to describe Pt. Barrow as something other than the ideal summer resort but he added he was enjoying it. The temperature during July, he said, ranged between 29 and 50 degrees, and most of the time hovered in the 30's. Even at Pt. Barrow, said Dr. Miller, people complained about the heat when one July day the temperature edged above 50 degrees. About his

birds and radar work, Dr. Miller said he was working hard on it and expects to give full details when he returns to the Academy this month.

### NEW VOICES ADD LUNAR ALLURE

THOSE DULCET YET CRISP announcements for the summer show at Morrison Planetarium—"A Trip to the Moon"—sound vaguely familiar to staff members and visitors alike. And they should. Planetarium Manager George Bunton packed up his tape recorder and most flattering words and went to San Francisco International Airport where he talked Mrs. Laura Reynolds and Mrs. Emily Phillips into recording several series of squibs for the Moon show. Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Phillips are employed as professional flight announcement-makers at the airport communications center.

Incidentally, the summer schedule for the Planetarium now boasts two extra shows per week, in addition to the regular expanded summer schedule. They are offered at 2:15 and 3:30 P. M. every Tuesday through August 27.

### TRAVELING WITH THE STAFF

INADVERTENTLY OMITTED from last month's accounts of Academy travels, Dr. Robert T. Orr, the Academy's Curator of Birds and Mammals, attended the 37th annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists at the University of Kansas at Lawrence from June 17 to 20. Dr. Orr is vice-president of the society.

The traveling urge hit television as well. The Academy's Executive Producer Benjamin Draper spent several weeks in Colorado during June and July, where he produced a historical documentary television program, "Hotel de Paris," for Station KLZ-TV in Denver, spent several days interviewing scientists who are working on the International Geophysical Year, attended a conference on the problems of science teaching and met with Colorado's Governor Stephen L. R. McNichols on television coverage of the Gold Rush Centennial in 1958-59. The Academy has been asked to advise the Gold Rush Centennial Committee on television matters.

As he described it, Ben then returned to the Bay Area long enough to send his laundry out and left for Lake Arrowhead for a conference on Industry and Education for which he served as Television Resource Consultant for the National Academy of Sciences.

After a visit to Disneyland where the Drapers were guests of Walt Disney, Ben is now back at his desk in the television department.

### LIBRARY HAS "FLOWERY" ADDITIONS

THE SAN FRANCISCO Garden Club has again made it possible for our Library to acquire several botanical books of unusual distinction. Through the annual income provided by the Club's endowment fund in honor of Mrs. William Hinckley Taylor, the Library received Great Flower Books, 1700-1900, a bibliographical record of two centuries of finely illustrated flower books by Sacheverell Sitwell and Wilfrid Blunt, London, 1956; South African Flowers for the Garden, by Sima Eliovson, Cape Town, 1957; Pierre Joseph Redoute's Roses with introduction by Eva Mannering, London, 1954; and Repertorium Botanices Systematicae by G. G. Walpers, Leipzig, 1842-47, six volumes.